

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09144 140947Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 /070 W

-----140957Z 060367 /13

R 140855Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1092

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9144

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY PROTEST

REF: MANILA 9069

1. WE HAVE DEVELOPED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INCIDENT REPORTED PARA 3 REFTEL. ON AFTERNOON JUNE 12 APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PERSONS MET AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE IN QUEZON CITY FOR SEMINAR ON LABOR WHICH WAS ACTUALLY PROTEST AGAINST MARTIAL LAW. POLICE SURROUNDED SCHOOL ALLEGEDLY IN RESPONSE TO NEIGHBORS' PROTEST AGAINST NOISE FROM MEETING. ACCORDING AP, WHICH RAN STORY JUNE 14, NORTHERN DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER SAID HE WOULD NOT MOVE HIS MEN UNTIL GROUP DISPERSED. COLLEGE AUTHORITIES COUNTERED THAT INDIVIDUALS INSIDE WOULD NOT LEAVE UNTIL POLICE WITHDRAWN. AFTER 24-HOUR TEST OF WILL, POLICE FINALLY PERMITTED PARTICIPANTS TO LEAVE IN BUSES DRIVEN BY PRIESTS AND NUNS.

2. ACCORDING TO NUN WHO WAS AT SCENE PPOLICE INSISTED THAT PARTICIPANTS FILE OUT OF BUILDING SINGLE FILE SO THAT EACH COULD BE PHOTOGRAPHED. THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO COVER FACE WITH HANDS HAD THEM KNOCKED AWAY BY POLICE.

3. TWO NEWSMEN, ARRESTED AT SCENE, WERE FILIPINO REPORTERS
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FOR TWO JAPANESE NEWS AGENCIES. THEY WERE LATER RELEASED. FILIPINO UPI PHOTOGRAPHER HAD HIS CAMERA TAKEN, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER POLICE CONFISCATED IT OR SOMEONE STOLE IT. OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB HAS SCHEDULED EMERGENCY MEETING THIS AFTERNOON (JUNE 14) TO DISCUSS WHAT ACTION TO TAKE.

4. COMMENT: POLICE APPEAR TO HAVE OVER REACTED TO ST.

JOSEPH SEMINAR. THERE WERE NO MASS ARRESTS AS RUMORS FIRST
HAD IT, BUT 24-HOUR MEXICAN STANDOFF BETWEEN POLICE AND
NUNS LIKELY EMBARRASSING TO GOVERNMENT AS WAS ARREST OF
JOURNALISTS. WHAT GIVES INCIDENT SPECIAL PIQUANCY IS THAT
IT TOOK PLACE AS PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS TELLING NATION ABOUT
HIS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. AS HAS HAPPENED
SO OFTEN BEFORE, HIS POLICE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN THE
WORD.
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Message Attributes

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